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UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 21 - Board
Meeting

Dec 1 - Decorate GV
House

Dec 7—GV Holiday
Reception

Dec 14— Christmas
Gala at Audubon

Jan 16— Board
Meeting

Feb 1— Queens Ball

Fall History Conference Successful Again

The Foundation's Annual History Conference drew 75 attendees, and was held on the weekend of Sep . 20-22. The event kicked off for early arrivals with a presentation on timber framing at the Welcome Center Friday afternoon. After this presentation, attendees moved on to the opening reception at the Guibourd-Valle House where light refreshments were served and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Following the traditional continental breakfast Saturday morning at the Community Center, attendees settled in for the day's speaker presentations. Once again, Conference Chairman, Bob Mueller, put together a great line up of speakers and topics. For those of you who unfortunately could not attend the 2019 History Conference, here is a brief synopsis of the speakers' reports:

"The Old Mines-Ste. Genevieve Connection" was presented by Dr. Will Thompson, a French professor at the University of Memphis who currently is doing research focusing on the French heritage of the Old Mines area. Lead has been mined at Old Mines since at least 1700. When Renault received the first grant to mine there in 1723, a furnace was already in place. Later, Moses Austin, who lived in Ste. Genevieve and was partners with Menard and Valle, mined around Potosi. His writings were very descriptive. Mining took place from mid-August to December. Then with the Louisiana Purchase, there was new urgency to establish land concessions. Mining concessions were not available, and so people had to apply as farmers to acquire ownership. Francois Valle II did so, as did many others. Other familiar Ste. Genevieve names with ties to Old Mines are Henri Marie Brackenridge and Father Henri Pratt.

Dr. Carl Ekberg, Professor Emeritus of History at Illinois State University and author of several books about Ste. Genevieve, returned to this year's History Conference to talk about "Black Slavery and Black Freedom in colonial Ste. Genevieve." The first "slaves" to arrive in the US in 1619 were actually indentured. Before 1718 there is no evidence of black slaves in the Illinois Territory, only Indian slaves. By 1752, however, one third of the population in the Illinois Territory was African. In Ste. Genevieve around 1760, Francois Valle moved across the river bringing 228 slaves with him. This transformed Ste. Genevieve. Slavery at the time was not necessarily a color issue. Native American and African slaves lived here as well as free Indians and free people of color.

A volunteer curator at the Fort de Chartres State Historic Site garden, Carol Kuntz, presented "French Colonial Kitchen Gardens of the Illinois Country." Early French gardens in this area produced both food and medicine. They were orderly and patterned, producing a family's needs for a year. Various people have described these gardens. Henri Marie Brackenridge spoke of the stockade fences protecting them from free range livestock. John Reynolds, fourth governor of Illinois, reported little change from 1600 to 1840 with vegetables mixed attractively with herbs and flowers. Louis Bolduc's inventory included a gardening book from Europe which would have been standard for the day. Cook books also indicated what plants were producing the ingredients needed. Cabbages, onions, gourds, melons, peas, beans, carrots, turnips, parsnips were grown, often in raised beds. Seed had to be imported from Europe because locally saved seed tended to lose its vigor after three years.

During the lunch break, Sandra Cabot gave an update on the National Park Service initiative as well as statewide and local efforts to celebrate Missouri's bicentennial in 2021. In addition, Senator Roy Blunt's Area Director, Madison Baker, gave a short talk , and reiterated the Senator's support for the NPS Park. Following lunch, the presentation resumed. (continued on next page)

HISTORY CONFERENCE

Jim Baker, former site administrator for the Felix Valle State Historic Site, returned to Ste. Genevieve to report on buildings constructed of stone here. Although vertical log structures were common in early Ste. Genevieve, notable stone businesses were also constructed. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1894 which was color coded to indicate building material illustrated the locations of quite a few stone buildings.

The Dr. Huberdeau house at the corner of Jefferson and Fourth Streets originally was a home and business as indicated by the double door entrances, now windows.

Stone from the Pratt warehouse, formerly at the corner of Fourth and Merchant Streets, was used to construct the building in the courtyard of the Shaw house.

The foundation and first few courses of stone from the former stone Catholic Church still support the center of the current brick Catholic Church.

Old Valle was built to lure Christian Brothers to teach here. When that did not happen, the structure was used as a rectory and a school.

The ice house standing behind ASL Pewter has a raised roof and now is the residence of the proprietors, Tom and Pat Hooper..

The Henry Keil commercial building (Mecker library) at Second and Gabouri used to have two doors and has a Model T frame embedded in the concrete foundation.

Behind the newer façade of the Wood Family Funeral home is the original Dr. Ichabod Sargent stone building. It can be evidenced by looking at the east side of the building.

Jacob Philipson built the Felix Valle house which also contained the business of Valle and Menard - again double doors.

Across the street was the Keil, Bisch, and Roberts storehouse (Tlapek building) built in 1818 with very fine mortar.

The stone remains of the Albert Bisch Storehouse are incorporated into the east brick wall of the now Merchant Street Gallery building.

“Mine La Motte Domain: A Separate Place” was presented by Tony Starr, an independent researcher who became interested in Mine La Motte when he authored a history of the S Bar F Boy Scout camp. The remains of old roads and foundations can still be found on the camp property. The earliest mining there was in the clay sediment. The mine was small but very rich. Bars were made by pouring molten lead into spaces hollowed out of logs. Some 85 tons were thus transported to the Mississippi River by horses and later by ox carts along an Indian guide trail. By 1742 Renault had to abandon this project. With no new concessions, a series of squatters, including Francois Valle, worked the mines. (continued on pg 6)

In 1779 New Bourbon requested new “agricultural” lands closer to the mines. The Domain lasted for nearly 100 years until the last Valle sold out. In 81 years, 8,000 tons of lead were brought out of the area. With new mining methods, that amount could then be extracted in just 3 ½ years.

“Pierre Laclede in Ste. Genevieve” was the subject of Sharon Person’s talk. She is a professor at St. Louis Community College and author of several books on St. Louis’ colonial history. After the French and Indian War, it was a time of uncertainty with many moving from the east to the west side of the Mississippi. Records of Francois Valle in Ste. Genevieve indicated that during this time Pierre Laclede accrued quite a bit of debt. He had sent goods to be traded with the Shawnee. Instead of trading goods for furs, his representatives traded for sexual favors instead. They consequently did not return with as many furs as expected! The Shawnee men had protested, but the young traders did not stop.

On Sunday afternoon, 24 attendees toured the historic Catholic and Lutheran Churches of Ste. Genevieve, and the recently renovated Antoine O’Neille House.



A special thanks goes out to those Foundation members who organized the event and provided food for the reception and the conference, as well as to the two churches and Becky Millinger for the Sunday tour. **SAVE THE DATE** for next year’s Conference which is scheduled at the Community Center for Sep. 19, 2020. (Conference summary provided by Mary Elise Okenfuss.)

Have You

Remembered the Foundation In Your Will?

A thought to consider: Your retirement assets could make a wonderful gift and help you at the same time.

Yes, you can plan your legacy because assets in retirement plans make substantial gifts that can have a big impact on the future of the Foundation for Restoration. We can work with you if you’d like to talk about your retirement assets, including IRAs, 401(K)s, 403 (B)s, ESOPs, Keogh, pension plans and other tax-deferred plans.

Here’s how a gift from your retirement funds can benefit you and your family:

- You will avoid both income and estate tax on the gift of your retirement asset.
- You will have the option to continue to take withdrawals during your lifetime
- Your family can be freed of heavy tax burdens.
- Simple and easy process

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION: (573) 883-9622 ffrsg@att.net

Long time History Conference attendee and past Foundation member, Orval Henderson passed away this March at the age of 88.

Annual Christmas Gala Scheduled for Dec 15

Preparations are being made for the annual Christmas Gala. The Board has decided to move the event to the weekend following the Christmas Walk this year in order that more of its members will be able to attend. We will meet at the Audubon at 5pm for the Social Hour followed by a buffet meal at 6. The annual preservation and distinguished service awards will be presented following the meal.

Can You Help Us?



We are looking for one or two people to take over as event chair. The basic responsibilities would be:

1. Christmas Walk Saturday Reception. Make a few calls for refreshments. (We are fortunate with volunteers that are willing to provide appetizers when asked.)
2. Friday history conference reception. Pick a location. (The past few have been at the Green Tree or the Guibourd Valle House). Call for refreshments. Set up /light clean up
3. Saturday morning history conference continental breakfast At the Community Center. Light decorating. Make coffee, Set out pastry and fruit. Light clean up, get ready for lunch.
4. Saturday history conference lunch. Set out box lunches and beverages. light clean up.

If you would be kind enough to help us out in this regard, please contact the office by phone message or email. All help appreciated, and we want to thank Janet Leonard for leading this effort for past several years.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CEMETERY

A late summer storm deprived Memorial Cemetery of one of its largest pecan

trees. The massive tree, which caused some damage to the monuments underneath, was removed along with several threatening limbs from other trees. Damage for the most part was not severe, and will be on the top of the priority list when Brewer Monument arrives for the next round of stone restoration. The original sign at the entrance designating our participation in the grant from America's Greatest Treasures had deteriorated and had to be removed. We have also posted a No Dogs Allowed sign to encourage people to use the designated dog park on Third St.

R.I.P

Welcome

The Foundation would like to welcome its newest Board members Junie Ewing, Pat Fahey, Susie Johnson, Carl Kinsky, Mary Elise Okenfuss, and Skip Weiler. And thanks to outgoing Board Members Jan Brans, Joyce Greminger, Romaine Holman, and Janet Leonard.

NEED HELP

We will be meeting to help make wreaths and decorate the Guibourd Valle House for the holidays on Sunday, December 1 starting at noon at the Welcome Center.

EASY FUNDRAISERS

Over the last several months, the Foundation participated in two different fundraisers. First, thank you to all who stopped by the Audubon for something to eat and/or drink on Aug 20. Because of their generous 10% give back policy, your patronage that evening resulted in \$87 being raised. Also an additional \$267 was raised by a birthday Facebook fundraiser set up by Angie Dalton. Thanks Angie! Much appreciated! Finally, if you are someone who does some of your holiday shopping online at Amazon, please click the link banner below, and Amazon will donate a certain percentage of your purchase back to the Foundation.

#1 holiday hack:

When you shop at
smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

amazonsmile



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Preserving Ste. Genevieve History & Architecture

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*The **Foundation for Restoration of Ste. Genevieve** is this city's Historical Society, and was founded in 1967 with the express purpose of promoting **preservation and restoration** of historic structures and other property that illustrate Ste. Genevieve's early history and culture. The Foundation also supports the **acquisition of knowledge** concerning the early settlements and its people by maintaining and sharing the area's history with the public.*



RAINED OUT. The 2019 Spirit Reunion scheduled for October 26 was a victim of the weather this year. Both the Rural Heritage Day and the annual Memorial Cemetery event were cancelled due to

the constant and heavy rainfall.

Next year 2020 is a leap year, and that means we will be sponsoring a Queen's Ball at the VFW Hall on Saturday evening Feb 1, 2020. Tickets are once again \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. This years festivities will start and end earlier. The doors will open at 6, music and dancing from 7-11 pm. For table reservations, call 314-277-5747.



2019 ANNUAL MEETING

July Annual Meeting Held at Historic St Mary Church Attendees of the annual meeting met in the chapel of the church on Sunday July 21. Foundation member, Brian Helms provided an overview of the steps taken by the newly formed Immaculate Conception Preservation Society to save this historic structure once the Archdiocese of St. Louis dissolved the parish there. Though a bit out of the norm for the annual meeting to be held out of town, the Foundation felt it was important to recognize their efforts in preserving and maintaining the church, and presented a check to Brian toward the continuing effort. Following the presentation, the group congregated in the parish hall where we enjoyed a delicious catered barbecue meal.

UPDATE

The week of Nov 11, Board Members, Sara Menard, Al



Keiser, Jack and Mickey Koetting will be traveling to Florida to meet with Foundation member, Anita Dunford to accept the Melanie Jarrot portrait that she is so generously donating to the Foundation, which will then hang in the Guibourd House.

Foundation Officers

President - Sara Menard

1st Vice President—Lawrence Myers

2nd Vice President - John Karel

Recording Secretary - Jack Koetting

Treasurer - Mike Horrell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Expiring July 2020

Skip Weiler
Sandra Cabot
John Karel
Mickey Koetting
Lauren Moore
Susie Johnson

Terms Expiring July 2021

Frank Myers
Roger Greminger
Jack Koetting
Brian Craft
Mary Elise Okenfuss

Terms Expiring July 2019

Sara Menard
Al Keiser
Lawrence Myers
Junie Ewing
Pat Fahey
Carl Kinsky

Were you aware that your Foundation was one of the first groups that spearheaded the efforts which after a very long time has led to the establishment of Ste. Genevieve as a National Park site? Our intention is to continue to stay involved in the ongoing process.

